



HUNTING HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP

PLPW Goals (2014)

- *Develop a program that recognizes landowners and hunters involved in access programs for leadership, innovations, and entrepreneurship.*
- *Increase public access to private property owned by traditional and non-traditional landowners by addressing their needs and building relationships.*
- *Ensure that FWP leadership supports and encourages local community engagement and involvement by field staff.*
- *Recognize landowners who provide access but are not formally enrolled as a BMP cooperator or using other FWP access programs.*
- *Set up regional access working groups with landowners, sportsmen, NGOs, and state and federal agencies. These types of groups would be an ideal venue to form partnerships, leverage resources, and build support for access.*

Gov. Bullock's MONTANA Main Street Project For Montana by Montanans

- Maintain the long-term viability of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources in order to provide abundant public opportunity for the enjoyment of Montana's recreational amenities.
- Conduct an updated assessment of the contribution hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation make to Montana's economy.
- Identify new opportunities for working with private and public landowners and partners to better steward, restore and conserve habitat and heritage resources.
- Find ways to better understand public expectations, satisfy customers, and fulfill the needs of emerging recreation-based businesses.



OBJECTIVES OF ***Hunting Heritage Partnership (HHP):***

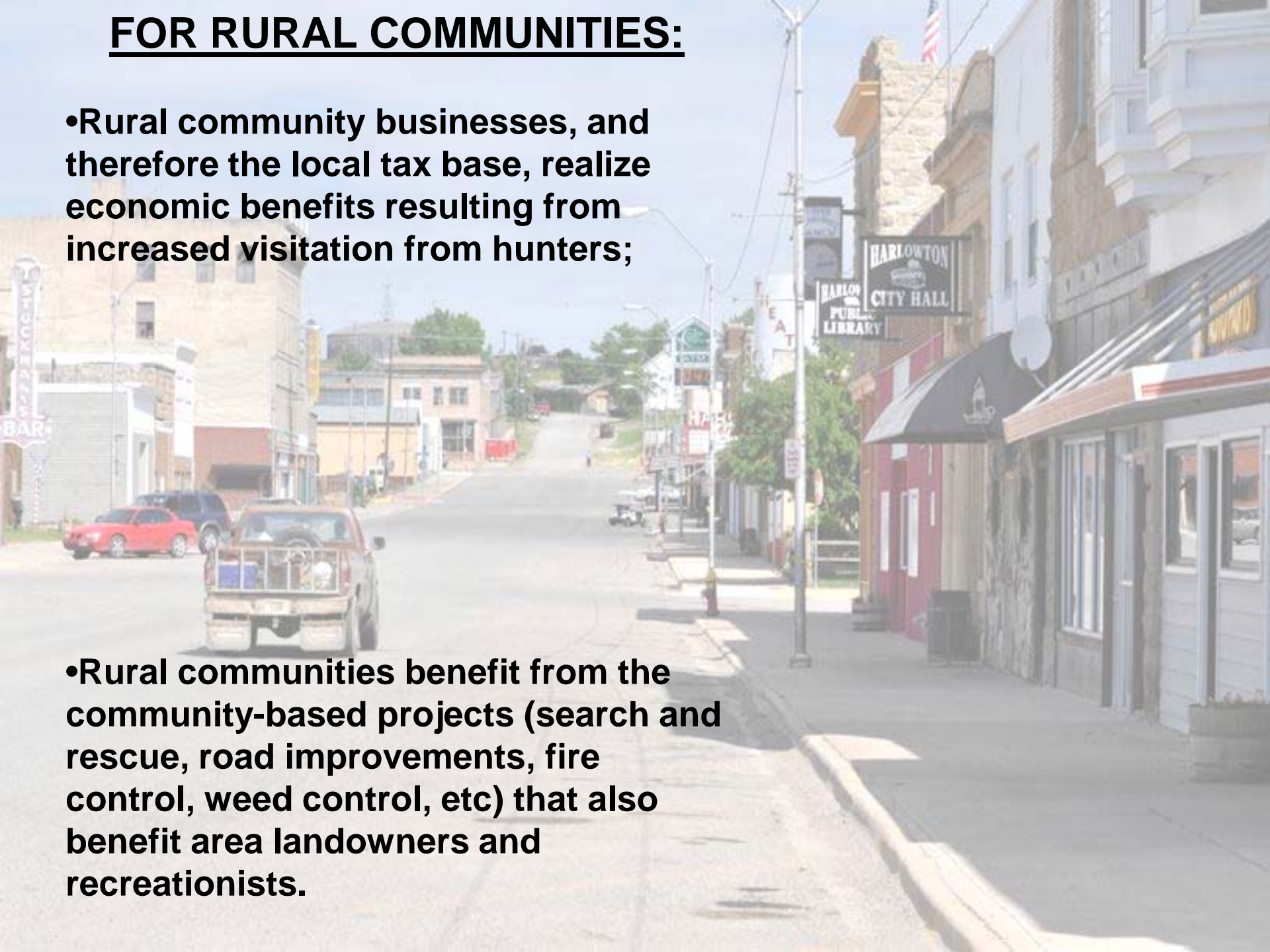
- **RESTORE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY BETWEEN RURAL MONTANA, LANDOWNERS, AND SPORTSMEN WHILE MAINTAINING MONTANA'S HUNTING HERITAGE;**
- **PROVIDE A SYSTEM WHEREBY EACH OF THE ABOVE CONTRIBUTES AND WHERE EACH RECEIVES A BENEFIT:**

10/12/2013

FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

- Rural community businesses, and therefore the local tax base, realize economic benefits resulting from increased visitation from hunters;

- Rural communities benefit from the community-based projects (search and rescue, road improvements, fire control, weed control, etc) that also benefit area landowners and recreationists.



FOR LANDOWNERS:

- **Landowners benefit from tangible community-based projects and/or from land stewardship incentives designed to increase productivity of the land;**
- **Landowners manage hunters and harvest in concert with county access coordinator;**
- **Game damage is reduced by increased harvest and participating landowners are eligible for game damage assistance, management seasons;**
- **Community services provided to rural county residents and landowners may include fire protection, road maintenance, weed control, search and rescue, etc.**

10/15/2009

A person wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, a light-colored baseball cap, and a harness is holding a large set of antlers. They are standing in front of the open bed of a white pickup truck. The background shows some trees and a clear sky.

FOR SPORTSMEN:

- **Access to public wildlife is maintained, restored and increased, for resident and nonresident recreationists**
- **Montana's rich hunting heritage is restored, maintained and enhanced**
- **Enhance Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) mission to “provide for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife & recreational resources of Montana while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations”**
- **More thoroughly meet FWP Agency goals to “provide quality opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment of wildlife resources” and “maintain & enhance the health of Montana's natural environment and vitality of our wildlife resources”.**

TARGET LANDOWNER GROUP:

- Landowners referenced in “Hunting Access Management on Private Lands in Montana” (RMU research summary #27, 2009) as employing non-block management hunting without a fee.
- This group of landowners represents greater than 80% of the landowners surveyed in all game species categories.
- This program is not designed to compete with landowners enrolled in block management.

BENEFITS OF HHP

- **Restores sense of community between all stakeholders – including, but not limited to agricultural interests, sportsmen interests (both residents and nonresidents), outfitters and Montanans living in rural communities;**
- **Provides for partnerships where neighbor works with neighbor for the benefit of all. Community-based benefits may include fire control, weed control, search and rescue, road maintenance, etc;**
- **By increasing management effectiveness and wildlife harvest, thereby reducing the likelihood for disease transmission (including but not limited to brucellosis) through lower wildlife populations, and allowing stakeholders to cooperatively work together to achieve various harvest/hunter opportunity objectives;**
- **Provides opportunity for “new nontraditional landowners” to become part of the community;**
- **Increases hunter recruitment, especially with a focus on resident hunters;**
- **Increases management flexibility and effectiveness for FWP;**
- **Increases the productivity of the land through land stewardship incentives.**









The Threat of Leafy Spurge

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Leafy spurge is an aggressive, persistent, herbaceous, deep-rooted perennial of the Euphorbiaceae family. Typically referred to as *Euphorbia esula*, leafy spurge is often considered a hybrid of several exotic spurge. A native of Eurasia, it has been introduced into North America on multiple occasions and from a variety of sources. First recorded in the United States in 1827, leafy spurge is now a dominant component of many western rangelands. Leafy spurge can thrive in a wide variety of habitats, including riparian areas and forest zones, as well as grassland ecosystems. Where well established, leafy spurge crowds out desirable forage grasses and important native plants, leaving thick monocultural infestations. Annual direct and indirect economic losses due to leafy spurge infestations in Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wyoming are estimated to exceed \$420 million.



Leafy spurge grows up to a height of 1m or taller from a woody crown below the soil surface. Vegetative stems manufacture sugars for root reserves while other stems produce flowers. The stems are thickly clustered and bear narrow long leaves that are alternately arranged along the stems. Seeds are oblong and gray to purple in color, and occur in clusters of three. When dry, the seed capsules shatter, scattering seeds away from the plant. Large quantities of seeds are often distributed by birds, wildlife and humans.



Leafy spurge roots are brown with numerous pinkish vegetative buds. The root system of leafy spurge consists of both coarse and fine roots and can be very extensive, often growing to depths of 3 to 7 meters. Roots may be from one-half inch in diameter to as thin as one millimeter or less. Leafy spurge root systems have high reserve capacities and are responsible for the tenacious ability of the plant to recover from herbicide application as well as physical damage. Leafy spurge spreads below the soil surface by rhizomes, producing a clonal patch of spurge that is very resistant to control measures. Leafy spurge is also able to purge undesirable chemicals from the roots, allowing the unaffected portion of the root system to regenerate new shoots after the chemical has become ineffective.



Leaves and stems of leafy spurge, when damaged, exude a milky white latex which is poisonous to some animals and can produce blisters, skin irritations, blotching and swelling in humans. Cattle and horses do not eat leafy spurge and will avoid forage in grazing areas where it is present. In cattle it causes scours and weakness, and when ingested in larger amounts it can even cause death.



Leafy spurge patches may have stem densities greater than 200 stems per square meter. Patches of leafy spurge spread through vegetative reproduction from 1 to 3 feet per year and form dense stands that crowd out other plants by shading and competing for moisture and nutrients. Leafy spurge seedlings can reproduce vegetatively within seven to 10 days after emergence. Seedlings typically do not flower during the first year.



Potential next steps

- After hearing a presentation outlining sideboards to the HHP Program, PLPW would put “flesh on the bones”
- An Advisory Board, consisting of a citizen council and an agency review board, would solicit, review, and select proposals from counties
- Grants awarded by the Advisory Committee would be overseen by the county, which could include a county coordinator to solicit, enroll, and attend to the program.
- A Conservation NGO would assume fiduciary responsibilities, to include fundraising and distribution of grant money.

Questions? Comments?

